

Atty. Docket No. 41575/27975(106)

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

Claims Nos. 1, 2, 18 and 19 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An ergonomic weight support apparatus for a seat comprising:
a housing having an arcuate channel;

an extending element having a pressure surface end, said pressure surface end being convex toward a seat occupant and being flexible in response to pressure, said extending element also having an arcuate encapsulated end slidingly disposed within said arcuate channel of said housing;

said sliding disposition of said arcuate encapsulated end of said extending element in said arcuate channel being such that sliding travel of said arcuate encapsulated end of said extending element along said arcuate channel causes said pressure surface end of said extending element to extend outwards towards a seat occupant;

an actuator anchored to said housing;

a traction element having a first end engaged with said actuator and a second end in tractive communication with said arcuate encapsulated end of said extending element; and

a pressure plate attached to said pressure surface end of said extending element;

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whereby said actuator mediates travel of said extending element between a retracted position and an extended, weight supporting position via application of a tractive force in a direction substantially collinear with said sliding travel of said arcuate encapsulated end of said extending element in said arcuate channel.

4. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said traction element is selected from the group consisting of: a wire, a bowden cable, a hard drawn wire, a pin, a rod, a bracket and a spoke.

5. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said extending element is comprised of plastic.

6. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said housing is made of plastic.

7. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said pressure plate is made of plastic.

8. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said pressure plate has a medial axis that is attached to said pressure surface end of said extending element.

9. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 8 wherein said pressure plate has an upper edge and a lower edge, said upper edge and said lower edge being attached to said extending element only through said attachment of said medial axis.

10. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 9 wherein said pressure plate tapers from being thicker at said medial axis to being thinner at least one of said upper edge and said lower edge.

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11. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 8 wherein said medial axis is substantially horizontal.
12. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said pressure plate is curvilinear.
13. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein communication between said extending element and said actuator is selected from the group consisting of: a piston, a screw, a rocker, a rack and pinion, a cam, a lever and a cantilever.
14. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said actuator is selected from the group consisting of: a hydraulic device, a pneumatic device, a bowden cable, an electric motor and a mechanical device.
15. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said pressure plate is substantially as wide as said pressure surface end of said extending element.
16. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said pressure plate is substantially greater in height than said pressure surface end of said extending element.
17. (Original) The ergonomic support of Claim 3 wherein said pressure plate is flexible.
20. (Original) A method of assembling a lumbar support comprising:
disposing an arcuate encapsulated end of a extending element in an arcuate channel of a housing such that sliding travel of said arcuate encapsulated end through said arcuate channel extends a pressure surface end of said extending element in the direction substantially out from

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the plane of the seat back and toward the seat occupant, said sliding travel of said arcuate encapsulated end and said arcuate channel being substantially parallel with a plane of a seat back;

mounting an actuator in a position to operatively communicate with said arcuate encapsulated end of said extending element;

attaching a traction element to said arcuate encapsulated end of said extending element and to said actuator such that said actuator mediates said sliding travel of said arcuate encapsulated end through arcuate channel, via a tractive force, said tractive force being substantially parallel with the plane of the back of the seat; and

fixing a pressure plate to said pressure surface end of said extending element.

21. (Previously Presented) An ergonomic support device for a seat comprising:

an arcuate channel;

a paddle comprising a substantially rigid arcuate end and a convex pressure surface end, wherein said substantially rigid arcuate end slides within said arcuate channel between an inner position and an outer position and wherein said convex pressure surface end respectively rotates between a retracted position and an extended position, said inner position of said substantially rigid arcuate end corresponding with said retracted position of said convex pressure surface end and said outer position of said substantially rigid arcuate end corresponding with said extended position of said convex pressure surface end;

an actuator operatively connected to said substantially rigid arcuate end of said paddle;

and

a pressure plate attached to said paddle proximate to said convex pressure surface end.

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22. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic support of claim 21, wherein said convex pressure surface is substantially as wide as said pressure plate.

23. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic support of claim 21, wherein said convex pressure surface is flexible.

24. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic support of claim 21, further comprising a housing enclosing said arcuate channel.